



## Media Release

**From: Councilmember Yvette Simpson, City of Cincinnati**

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## Youth Commission of Cincinnati Launches Citywide Study on Youth

Cincinnati –Councilmember Yvette Simpson and leaders from the Youth Commission of Cincinnati announced the release of a request for proposal (or “RFP”) to conduct a groundbreaking study on the state of Cincinnati’s youth. This RFP, released by the City of Cincinnati on April 2, 2013, seeks to identify a vendor to complete the research.

Focusing on six major factors of Cincinnati youth life: crime; poverty and homelessness; education; workforce development; health; and developmental opportunities, this study will analyze the interrelationship among and impact of these factors on our young people. The vendor will work closely with the Youth Commission to craft the study with a “plan of action” in mind, creating recommendations that can be implemented citywide, by the City as well as its community partners.

“I am excited for the results this research will bring,” stated Councilmember Simpson, “Cincinnati has many wonderful organizations dedicated to youth. This work will guide the City and its partners by identifying how to prioritize resources and create a strategic approach to ensure more young people are advancing in areas most critical to their future success.”

This study will be unique in Cincinnati. There is no current local data on Cincinnati youth. Other recent research has been regionally-focused, and primarily addresses health concerns. This study will address the “whole child” by examining six critical factors in a child’s life and how these factors impact one another.

As recent statistics indicate, Cincinnati youth are struggling. Cincinnati has the third highest childhood poverty rate in the nation, with approximately 48% of children living in poverty. This has critical implications for our children. Children living in poverty are twice as likely to repeat a grade, adolescents are almost twice as likely to be obese, and impoverished teenage girls are five times more likely to have an unintended pregnancy than those not living in poverty. Cincinnati already has a lower percentage of high school graduates than both Ohio and the United States, and non-high school graduates in Cincinnati are more than twice as likely to live below the poverty line. If nothing is done, this cycle will continue.

“This study is just the first step in creating a brighter future for our children,” stated Simpson, “We intend it to create recommendations that the entire community can adopt to help our young people learn, live, and grow.”

The Youth Commission of Cincinnati is a citywide commission formed in spring of 2012 to act as a voice for the needs of Cincinnati youth, and to guide city leaders on decisions relating to youth concerns. It is also charged with evaluating current policies, laws, programs, and services impacting Cincinnati youth. Members of the commission include leaders from a wide variety of organizations serving youth.

All bids for the study are due by May 2, 2013. Once a vendor is selected, the research should take approximately one year to complete.

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